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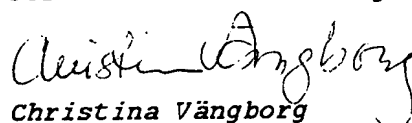
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METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PRESENTING
INFORMATION

Technical Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a system and methods for presenting electronically stored information on a presentation unit via a network.

Background of the Invention

Today a lot of information is accessible over networks such as Intranets and the Internet. Even information that is to be accessible only for a specific group of users can be accessed over these networks by means of secure communication channels and different identification methods.

To have information presented on a presentation unit nearby, the user must have a computer having access to the network in which the information is accessible and a presentation unit connected to the computer. Thus, people that travel a lot and need access to information stored on, for example, a company server have to carry with them a computer to be able to access the desired information. Further, they either have to have a portable modem with them or have access to a network connection.

The access to information can be accomplished by means of a cellular telephone implementing e.g. the Wireless Application Protocol (WAP), a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) or a similar device. Then, the user has access to information presented in a format presentable on the cellular telephone. However, if the information is a text document comprising a large amount of text, e.g. a patent application, or a blueprint of a machine to repair, then it is not suitable and often not even possible to present the information on the cellular telephone. Even if the telephone is capable of using a

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normal Internet Protocol (IP) connection for communication, the information has to be adapted to the small size screen of the telephone or the PDA, and thus it would be very difficult for the user to get an
5 overview or even read such a document.

Summary of the Invention

The object of the present invention is to make it possible for a person to have information presented to
10 him in a form that is easy to read and overview, even if the information is in a form not suitable for easy reading on a small display.

Another object is to increase the mobility of people who require access to information of the above-mentioned
15 character.

Yet another object is to make it possible for a person to access documents that are electronically stored at a remote location.

These objects are accomplished by means of a method
20 in a system according to claim 1, a system according to claim 6, a method for a device that handles presentation requests according to claim 12, a device that handles presentation requests according to claim 20, a computer program product according to claim 26, a method for a
25 communication device according to claim 27, a communication device according to claim 33, a method for a handheld device according to claim 36, or a handheld device according to claim 39. Preferred embodiments of the invention are disclosed in the dependent claims.

30 More particularly, according to one aspect of the invention, a method in a system for selection and presentation of information comprises the steps of:

receiving a presentation unit specification at a handheld device via a short-range wireless connection
35 from a communication device for a presentation unit,

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- sending a document address and said presentation unit specification from the handheld device via a network to a device that handles presentation requests, receiving said document address and presentation unit specification at the device that handles presentation requests, retrieving, at the device that handles presentation requests, the document corresponding to said document address,
- 10 converting, at the device that handles presentation requests, the retrieved document to a format suitable for the presentation unit, sending the converted document from the device that handles presentation requests via a network to the
- 15 communication device for a presentation unit, and receiving said converted document at the communication device for a presentation unit.
- According to another aspect of the invention, a system for selection and presentation of information,
- 20 comprises:
- a handheld device enabled to present information retrieved from an information provider on a screen in the handheld device, including:
- an I/O-interface for short-range wireless
- 25 communication with a communication device for a presentation unit,
- means for receiving a presentation unit specification via said I/O-interface for short-range communication,
- 30 means for sending a document address to a device that handles presentation requests, and means for sending a received presentation unit specification to a device that handles presentation requests,
- 35 a device that handles presentation requests, including:

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means for receiving a document address,
referring to a document that is to be presented,
from a handheld device,

5 means for receiving a presentation unit
specification from a handheld device,

means for retrieving the document corresponding
to the document address,

10 means for converting the retrieved document to
a format that is suitable for the presentation unit
according to the presentation unit specification,
and

means for sending the converted document to the
presentation address,

15 a communication device for a presentation unit,
including:

an I/O-interface for short-range wireless
communication with a handheld device,

20 means for sending a presentation unit
specification via said I/O-interface for short-range
wireless communication, and

means for receiving information to be presented by a
presentation unit.

25 The system according to the invention solves the
problems accounted for above. When the need for a certain
document arises, a user of this system only has to pick
up his handheld device, make it display a page where the
document is identified, select the desired document on
said page for presentation on the presentation unit, make
it access a communication device for a presentation unit
30 nearby to exchange data regarding the presentation unit
and then have the document presented on said presentation
unit. The document can be located at any node of a
network as long as there is an address identifying it.
The address to the document and a specification of the
35 presentation unit are sent from the handheld device to a
device that handles presentation requests and then the

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document will be sent to the presentation unit in a format that the presentation unit understands.

The system is advantageous by being able to allow essentially any kind of document to be presented on essentially any kind of presentation unit. Further, the system provides this advantage without requiring any additional memory in the handheld device or the communication device for the presentation unit for storing conversion means for various document formats and presentation units. This is achieved by having the requested document converted in a device that handles presentation requests.

Another advantage of performing the conversion in the device that handles presentation requests is that the normal operation neither of the handheld device nor of the communication device is affected negatively by the conversion.

Yet another advantage of performing the conversion in a device that handles presentation requests is that the document does not necessarily need to be sent to the handheld device, at least not before it is converted. This is achieved by making the device that handles presentation requests retrieving a requested document on the basis of a document address received from the handheld device, and therefore the handheld device only needs to communicate the document address in order to make the document available to the device that handles presentation requests. Thus, by having the device that handles presentation requests retrieving the document, bandwidth is saved on the communication paths of the handheld device.

A further advantage of performing the conversion at the device that handles presentation requests, and thus positioning the means for conversion at this location, is that the process of adding new means for conversion or changing of old means for conversion is simplified to a great extent. One reason therefor is that there will be a

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greater number of handheld devices or presentation units than devices that handle presentation requests, whereby it will be easier for an administrator to perform an upgrade of the conversion means at the device that

5 handles presentation requests. Another reason is that the handheld device is probably not connected to a network all the time. Thus, a user should be required to personally perform an update of conversion means if the means were located in the handheld device.

10 The system is also advantageous in that the handheld device is able to exchange data with presentation units nearby and can also be made to identify them, thanks to the short-range communication link. Thus, a user does not need to worry about manually

15 identifying a presentation unit and typing in data needed to utilise the presentation unit. As a result, the user is not required to search for parameters needed to accomplish a presentation. These advantages are accomplished by means of the short-range communication

20 link that is established between the handheld device and a communication device for the presentation unit. The short-range communication link can for example be implemented using Bluetooth, IrDA, Open Air, Home RF, Hiper Lan, IEEE 802.11, etc.

25 In the context of the invention, a presentation unit represents devices that are able to present electronically represented information that cannot be presented satisfactorily on a small display of a handheld device. The presentation unit could be, for example, a

30 screen, a rather large display, an e-book, an electronic picture frame or a printer.

According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the presentation unit is a device that creates a copy of an electronic document on or in a medium that

35 is highly portable. In that case, a presentation unit could, for example, be a conventional printer or an

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electronically controllable presentation medium, e.g. e-books, electronic picture frames, etc.

5 In a preferred embodiment the presentation unit is a printer. By presenting the information via a printer on a printable medium, it is possible to have information presented in high resolution and it is easy get an overview of the information. Another advantage of using a printer as presentation unit is that a printed document format is well known and easy to utilise for essentially
10 any person and that a printed document is easy to add comments to or sign, which still is required in regard of most contracts.

An information service provider is a system that allows access to browsable information on a network, e.g.
15 electronically stored documents, e-mails, drawings, blueprints etc. The information service provider could, for example, be an Internet portal or a server for serving the documents of a company to employees or other people allowed access to them. The server for serving the documents of a company could, for example, be a system
20 such as a unified messaging server.

A handheld device is a device that is enabled to communicate over a network and to display information found at nodes of a network, at least in the form of text
25 but preferably also in the form of pictures. Further, it is preferably of such size that a user could hold it in one hand while operating it with the other. The device could for example be a cellular telephone, a PDA or a small computer. In a preferred embodiment, the device is
30 provided with a browser for presenting and browsing the information available on the network.

In the context of the invention a network is, for example, a communication network for telephones, a Wide Area Network (WAN), a Local Area Network (LAN), the
35 Internet or an Intranet.

In one preferred embodiment of the invention the search or selection of information is performed from the

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handheld device via a wireless telephone network and a station of the network operator giving the handheld device access to an information service provider, which could be directly accessed at the station or could be
5 accessed via a network. In this embodiment the handheld device is a cellular telephone and the user can search for information as long as the telephone is able to establish contact with the network of the telephone operator. The embodiment has the advantage of making the
10 information available at almost any location, allowing the user to search for a document to present wherever he may be. Then, when a document is found, the user can move to a location where the short-range communication link can be established between the telephone and a
15 communication device for a presentation unit for presentation of the document.

In another preferred embodiment of the invention the search or selection of information is performed from the handheld device via the short-range communication link
20 and the communication device for the presentation unit. In this embodiment the communication device is providing an access point to the Internet, an Intranet or another computer network, from which the information service provider can be accessed. The handheld device of this
25 embodiment could, for example, be a PDA or a small computer. The advantage of this embodiment is that the handheld device does not need any other connection than the short-range communication link for searching or selecting information.

30 According to a preferred embodiment, the device that handles presentation requests is a module in an information service provider. By providing the device that handles presentation requests as a module in an information service provider, the device is able to share
35 functionality and interfaces with the information service. Further, if the information service provider

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serves confidential information, the security of the document for presentation is easily maintained.

The system can utilise different paths for sending the presentation file, which is the requested document converted to a suitable format. It is possible to manufacture devices supporting all of the paths or only one or some of the paths. Thus, the paths from the device that handles presentation requests to the presentation unit described below can all be supported by one device.

10 In one preferred embodiment of the invention, the presentation file is sent from the device that handles presentation requests to the communication device for the presentation unit via at least a wireless network for cellular telephones, the handheld device, and the short-range communication link. One advantage of this

15 embodiment is that the presentation file can be sent to the presentation unit even if the communication device for the presentation unit is lacking a network connection. Another advantage is that the path for the

20 sending of the presentation file has already been established, during the selection of document and presentation unit, and thus the user can be certain that there is a path for sending the presentation file to the presentation unit.

25 In another preferred embodiment of the invention, the presentation file is sent from the device that handles presentation requests to the communication device for the presentation unit via a network such as the Internet and/or an Intranet. An advantage of this

30 embodiment is that the data rate of the transmission is very high. Another advantage of this embodiment is that the user is able to use the handheld device to perform other tasks when waiting for the presentation.

In yet another preferred embodiment of the

35 invention, the presentation file is sent from the device that handles presentation requests to the communication device for the presentation unit by e-mail. Advantages of

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this embodiment are that there is no trouble in presenting a presentation file on a presentation unit that is located behind a firewall and that the data rate of the transmission is very high. According to one
5 embodiment, the e-mail containing the presentation file is sent to a mail server handling the e-mails addressed to the presentation unit. Then, either the mail server sends a notice to the communication device regarding the newly received e-mail or the communication device
10 frequently checks the mail server for new mails.

According to one aspect of the invention, a presentation of a selected document, stored at a node of a network, is accomplished by means of a system essentially comprising a handheld device, a communication
15 device for a presentation unit and a device that handles presentation requests. By operating the handheld device, a user is able to get a presentation unit specification from said communication device. This specification is then sent, together with an address to a selected
20 document, to a device handling presentation requests. In this device the selected document is then converted to a format suitable for the presentation unit of said communication device, where the converted document is presented. The system could be using WAP-technology for
25 sending information from the handheld device to the device that handles presentation requests and for accessing information on the Internet. Further the system could, for example, be using Bluetooth or IrDA for the communication between the handheld device and said
30 communication device. The system also makes it possible to achieve mobile printing and portable access to documents that cannot be presented on a small display.

Additionally, the communication device for a presentation unit could be arranged to receive simple
35 information files stored in the handheld device via the short-range communication and to pass the simple information files to the presentation unit. Such files

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could, for example, be text files comprising the information of a WAP-page, a list of telephone numbers, an address list, etc. To initiate the sending of such information for presentation, the handheld device is provided with a "present" or a "print" command in one of its menus and could also be provided with a button dedicated to performing this action.

A further scope of applicability of the present invention will become apparent from the detailed description given below. However, it should be understood that the detailed description and specific examples, while indicating preferred embodiments of the invention, are given by way of illustration only, since various changes and modifications within the spirit and scope of the invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from this detailed description.

Brief Description of the Drawings

Other features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent from the following detailed description of a presently preferred embodiment, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which

Fig. 1 is a schematic view of a preferred embodiment of the invention,

Fig. 2 is a schematic view of a preferred embodiment of the invention utilising one preferred communication device for a presentation unit,

Fig. 3 is a schematic view of a preferred embodiment of the invention utilising another preferred communication device for a presentation unit,

Fig. 4 is a schematic view of a preferred embodiment of the invention utilising yet another preferred communication device for a presentation unit,

Fig. 5 is a schematic view of a device that handles presentation requests according to a preferred embodiment of the invention,

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Fig. 6 is a schematic view of a handheld device according to a preferred embodiment of the invention,

Fig. 7a is a schematic view of one embodiment of a communication device for a presentation unit,

5 Fig. 7b is a schematic view of another embodiment of a communication device for a presentation unit,

Fig. 8 is a flowchart of a process in the handheld device according to a preferred embodiment of the invention,

10 Fig. 9 is a flowchart of a process in the device that handles presentation requests according to a preferred embodiment of the invention,

Figs 10a and b are flowcharts of a process in the communication device for a presentation unit in a
15 preferred embodiment of the invention, and

Fig. 11 is a diagram over signals sent between different units of the system according to one embodiment of the invention.

20 Detailed Description of a Presently Preferred Embodiment

In Fig. 1, there is shown a preferred embodiment of a document presentation system. The system comprises at least one cellular telephone 100, at least one information service provider 200 and at least one
25 communication device 300, in Fig. 1 represented by 300a and 300b, for a presentation unit.

The cellular telephone 100 is connected to a network 10, e.g. Internet, Intranet, Wide Area Network (WAN), Local Area Network (LAN), via a wireless
30 network 14, e.g. a GSM-network, a TDMA-network, or another wireless network for cellular telephones, and a station 12 of a network operator providing wireless access to the network 10. The access to the network 10 is accomplished by providing the station 12 with a gateway
35 implementing, for example, the Wireless Application Protocol (WAP), Hyper Text Transport Protocol (HTTP) or some other protocol for communicating information over a

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wireless telephone network. Further, the cellular telephone 100 is provided with an interface for short-range wireless communication, such as Bluetooth.

5 The information service provider 200 is either directly connected to the station 12 or connected to the network 10. However, the information service provider 200 should have some access to a network 10. The information service provider 200 is either an Internet portal or a server for serving the documents of a company, and is
10 providing access to documents, e-mails and/or other browsable information on the network in a format suitable for the telephone 100. A print service device 210 is preferably built into the information service provider 200, but could also be positioned externally
15 from the information service provider 200. The print service device 210 is a device that handles the request of a document to be printed and is preferably implemented as a software code executed in the information service provider.

20 The communication devices 300a,b are connecting printers 380 to the network 10. A communication device could, for example, be implemented in a print server. It can be connected to a printer either as an external device 300a, as an internal device 300b or as an embedded
25 device 300b. It is provided with an interface for short-range wireless communication, such as Bluetooth. The main tasks of the communication devices 300a,b are to make sure that a print file sent to one of the communication devices for printing is printed and to provide a cellular
30 telephone with a printer specification. The printer specification comprises data regarding the transport route for a print file that is to be printed, the characteristics of the printer, and is described in more detail below.

35 The transport route of a print file between the printer service device 210 and the communication device 300a,b can be of different types, depending on

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what kind of communication device that is arranged to receive the print file. One route is to send the print file directly to one of the communication devices 300a,b over the network 10 using IP protocols. For this purpose
5 a File Transfer Protocol (FTP), an Internet Printing Protocol (IPP), etc can be used. Another route is to send the print file in an e-mail, for example by means of SMTP or IMAP, to an e-mail address dedicated to a chosen communication device 300a,b. The e-mail is then routed to
10 an e-mail server 390, which provides the chosen communication device 300a,b with the print file. Yet another route is to send the print file back to the cellular telephone 100, for example by means of IP and/or WAP Protocols, e.g. as Wireless Session Protocol (WSP),
15 and via the interface for short-range communication 20 transmit the print file to the chosen communication device 300a,b.

In Figs 2,3 and 4 said different communication device implementations are shown. The figures also show
20 more details of one embodiment of the invention, e.g. the network is described as the Internet 11 and the site of the printer is surrounded by a frame 50 that defines the nearby surroundings of the printer. The nearby surroundings of the communication device 300 shall, in
25 this embodiment, be seen as a LAN of a company that is restricted to an office or a building, or a zone in which the short-range communications 20 of a telephone 100 can be received by the communication device 300. As
illustrated in Figs 2 and 3 a company LAN that is
30 connected to the Internet is usually connected thereto via a security system such as a firewall 52 in order to reduce the risk of unauthorised access to the LAN. Further, there are shown three possible information service providers 200a-c, generally referred to as 200,
35 one provided by the operator at the station 12, one provided as an internet portal 62, and one provided by a company 60 for serving company documents to employees. In

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all three figures, the procedure for requesting a document to print can be the same, only with a variation of the data in the specification in accordance with the present communication device implementation.

5 Fig. 2 shows the communication device implementation that receives the print file as an e-mail. The e-mail is sent from one of the print service devices 210a-c, generally referred to as 210, to an e-mail server 390 via the Internet 11, the firewall 52, and finally a LAN. When
10 the print file comprised in the e-mail is received at the mail server 390, it is transmitted to the communication device 300 for printing. By using an e-mail as a carrier of the print file, a possible problem of getting the print file through the firewall 52 is avoided.

15 Fig. 3 shows the communication device implementation that receives the print file directly from one of the print service devices 210a-c via the Internet, the firewall, and a network connection, which could be either a LAN or a single Internet access point. In this
20 embodiment the print file is addressed direct to the communication device 300.

Fig. 4 shows the communication device implementation that receives the print file from one of the print service devices 210a-c via at least the wireless
25 telephone network 14, the telephone 100 and the short-range communication link 20. In this embodiment the print file does not need to be sent over the Internet if the print service device 210a positioned at the site of the operator is utilised, but the Internet could be used if
30 suitable. This communication device implementation is preferred if there is no network connection or if there is other reasons for not connecting the communication device to a network.

Now referring to Fig. 5, an embodiment of a print
35 service device 210 is shown. The print service device 210 is provided with means 212 for receiving a request for a document to be printed. The request comprises a document

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address, indicating where the document is situated, and a printer specification. The printer specification comprises, for instance, information regarding how to send the print file to the printer and the manufacturer and the model of the printer; further details will be described below. The request is passed from the means 212 for receiving a request to a control means 214. The control means 214 then extracts the document address from the request and passes it on to a means for retrieving documents 216.

The means for retrieving documents 216 then retrieves the document from the specified address within a memory 230 that the information provider has access to. The memory 230 could be a storage memory of the information service provider or any memory connected to and accessible via a network such as the Internet or an Intranet. The control means 214 passes the retrieved document and a portion of the printer specification containing data for selecting an appropriate device driver 220 to a document conversion means 218.

The document conversion means 218 checks the retrieved document to find out the format in which the document has been saved. The most simple method for checking the format is to read and interpret the file extension, e.g. ".txt" for a plain text file, ".doc" for a Microsoft® Word file, ".pdf" for an Acrobat® Reader file, ".tif" for a Tagged Image File, ".ps" for a postscript file, ".dwg" for a AutoCad® file, etc. However, only checking the extension of the file is a rather uncertain method for learning the format, because the extension could be wrong or another program could use the same extension. Therefore, in a preferred embodiment, also the contents of the file are checked for portions indicating the format of the file. When the document format has been determined, the document conversion means 218 selects a corresponding application 224 for interpreting the document. The applications 224 could be

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a program dedicated to interpret one or a plurality of formats, or it could be a full version of a program that is even able to create documents of the present format.

Further, the document conversion means 218 uses a portion of the printer specification containing data for selecting an appropriate device driver 220 to determine what device driver 220 to use for creating the print file. The determination can be based on data defining the manufacturer and the model of the printer and/or the Plug and Play (PnP) device ID of the printer.

The conversion means now utilises the selected application 224 and the selected device driver 220 to convert the requested document to a printer file that the target printer can use.

The control means 214 also checks the printer specification for the route that the print file is to be sent. For example, the specification could contain an e-mail address, the IP-address of the communication device, or a return address to the cellular telephone.

The control means 214 provides a send print file means 222 with the information of the route, e.g. an address, and the print file. Then the send print file means 222 sends the print file to the target printer via the requested route.

Now referring to Fig. 6, there is shown a cellular telephone 100 arranged to request and receive a presentation unit specification via a short-range communication link 20 and to send a document request via a wireless telephone network. The cellular telephone is a WAP-enabled cellular telephone provided with a user interface 110 comprising a touch screen or a display and a keypad. The user interface is connected to an information browser means 112, which, in accordance with the WAP-standard, browses information on a network in response to events at the user interface 110. The information browser is implemented as a program that is processed by a Central Processing Unit (CPU) 114. The

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communication via the short-range communication link is provided by means of a short-range communication interface 116, preferably implementing Bluetooth, connected to the CPU 114. For the communication over the wireless telephone network 14, the cellular telephone is provided with an ordinary interface 118 for a cellular telephone.

Reference is now being made to Figs 7a and 7b, showing two embodiments of a communication device 300 according to the invention. Both embodiments of the communication device 300 are provided with a Central Processing Unit 302 (CPU) for handling the processes of the communication devices 300. They are also provided with an interface 304 for communication via a short-range communication link 20 and an interface 306 for connecting a printer 380. The communication device 300 according to Fig. 7a is arranged to receive print files via the short-range communication link 20, in accordance with the route of Fig. 4. The communication device 300 according to Fig. 7b is arranged to receive print files via the network 10, in accordance with the routes of Fig. 2 or Fig. 3. Therefore, the communication device 300 of Fig. 7b is provided with an additional interface 308 for communication over the network 10. Both embodiments of the communication device 300 are provided with protocols for communication via the interfaces of each communication device 300.

The primary object of the printer specification provided to the print service device via the telephone is to identify what formats the printer is able to print and to identify what route the file has to be sent to get to the printer. For these purposes, the print file comprises data regarding the manufacturer and the model of the printer and an address to which the print file is to be sent. The printer specification could, for example, be a text file like the one presented below:

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5      <?xml version='1.0' standalone='yes'?>
      <MobilePrint0.1>
      <PrinterManufacturer></PrinterManufacturer>
      <PrinterModel></PrinterModel>
      <PrinterPnPID></PrinterPnPID>
      <PrinterID></PrinterID>
      <PrinterDeviceDriverURL></PrinterDeviceDriverURL>
      <PrinterEmailAddress></PrinterEmailAddress>
      <PrinterHostName></PrinterHostName>
10     <PrinterIPAddress></PrinterIPAddress>
      <PrinterIPPURL></PrinterIPPURL>
      <PrinterPDLs></PrinterPDLs>
      <PrinterLocalName></PrinterLocalName>
      <PrinterComment></PrinterComment>
15     </MobilePrint0.1>
```

In the specification above, the data of, for example, the printer manufacturer is to be positioned between the
20 <PrinterManufacturer> and the </PrinterManufacturer>.

Now assume that a travelling service technician is travelling around the world servicing and repairing industrial robots. During an assignment he encounters a malfunction in a robot he is not very familiar with. He
25 then needs the documentation of the robot. To get the documentation he asks for a printer having a Printer Server according to a preferred embodiment of the invention. He could also use his cellular telephone and instruct it to check the nearby surroundings for a
30 communication device that is providing the service according to the invention.

Now referring to Figs 1 and 8, when the service technician locates a communication device 300, he uses his WAP-enabled cellular telephone 100 to connect, step
35 510, to an operator that provides a WAP-gateway 12 to the Internet 10. Then a WAP-page is presented, step 512, on the display of the telephone 100 from which he can browse a web of linked WAP-pages by selecting links, 514, presented on the display. Every time a link is selected,
40 the telephone 100 checks if the link is pointing at another WAP-page or not, step 516. If the link points at

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another WAP-page, that page is downloaded and presented on the display, step 512, and the procedure is repeated, steps 512-516. A known WAP-page is also possible to get to by having the address of it stored in the

5 telephone 100 and then selecting it or simply by typing the address in the information browser of the telephone 100.

In one of the above-mentioned ways, the service technician gets an information page containing a link to

10 the document he needs presented, step 512. Now, he selects the link to the document, step 514, which is not a WAP-page. The telephone 100 checks if the link is pointing at a WAP-page, step 516, and finds out that it is not. Then the telephone 100 presents a print/download

15 dialog, step 518. If the service technician selects download, the document could be downloaded, step 522, to a computer nearby, for example via the short-range communication link. However, if he selects print, the telephone 100 will broadcast an identity request via the

20 short-range communication interface to all communication devices 300 within reach of the telephone 100 in regard of short-range communication 20, step 524. If there is no response to the request, an error message is presented in the display, step 528, indicating that there is no

25 compatible communication device 300 available. Then the telephone 100 returns to step 512 and presents the WAP-page again. If there is one or more communication devices 300 responding to the request, the communication devices 300 are presented on the display, step 530. Then

30 the service technician is enabled to select one of the communication devices 300 displayed, step 530. When one communication device 300 is selected, the telephone 100 sends a request to the selected communication device 300 for a printer specification, step 534. The communication

35 device 300 returns a printer specification which is received at the telephone 100, step 536. Then a print request comprising a document address, given by the

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selected link, and the printer specification is sent to a print service device 210 of an information service provider 200, step 538, via the wireless telephone network 14.

5 Now referring to Figs 1 and 9, the print request is received at a print service device 210, step 602. The device 210 identifies the different parts of the request, step 604, e.g. one document address and one printer specification, and uses the document address to retrieve
10 the document that is to be printed, step 606. Then the format of the retrieved document is identified, step 608, as described above. When the format of the document is established, the print service device 210 uses this information and the presentation unit specification in
15 the request to find an appropriate application for interpreting the document and a device driver, corresponding to the information of the printer specification, for converting the document to a print file suitable for the selected printer, step 610. Then
20 the document is converted to a print file, step 612.

The print file is now ready to be sent to the selected communication device. However, before the print file is sent, the print service device selects a
25 transmitting method in accordance with an address given in the printer specification, step 614. Thereafter the print file is sent to the communication device via one of the routes described above, step 616.

Now referring to Figs 1 and 10a, if the communication device 300 is arranged to receive print
30 files via the telephone 100 and the interface for short-range communication 20 or directly via the Internet 10, then the communication device 300 receives the print file, step 702, and passes it to the printer for printing, step 704.

35 Now referring to Figs 1 and 10b, if the communication device 300 is arranged to receive print files via e-mail, then the communication device could

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check the mail server 390 at predefined time intervals, step 712. If a new mail is present, step 714, then the communication device 300 retrieves the e-mail, step 716, and thereafter extracts the print file from the e-mail, step 718. When the print file is extracted, it is passed to the printer 380 for printing, step 720.

Now the service technician can pick up the document from the printer and begin repairing the robot.

With reference to Fig. 11, an example of communication between devices of the system and between the cellular telephone and a user is presented. The user initiates the WAP-browser of the cellular telephone, event 902. Then he makes the telephone connect to an information service provider, event 904. The telephone sends a connect request 906 to the information service provider. In response the information service provider sends an authentication request 908 to the telephone for authentication of the user. The user types a PIN-code into the telephone, event 910, and the telephone passes the PIN-code and a SIM-code of the subscriber to the information service provider as an authentication message 912. When the information service provider has accepted the user, it sends an initial WAP-page 914 to the telephone. The user is then able to select links on the pages presented on the telephone for browsing the information of the information service provider, event 916. During the browsing the telephone requests pages according to selected links while the information provider responds to the request by sending the requested pages; this corresponds to the bi-directional communication of 918. When the user selects a link to a document that is not a WAP-page, event 920, the telephone presents a print dialog, event 922. If the user chooses to initiate printing, event 924, the telephone broadcasts a message 926 via the short-range communication interface, implementing for example Bluetooth, to all communication devices that are capable of acting as a

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communication device for the present invention. Said communication devices then respond to the request by sending a message 928, comprising identification information, to the telephone. The user is then prompted to select one of the identified communication devices from a list, if there are more than one responding. If only one is identified, the user has to select that one or abandon the operation. When a communication device is selected, the telephone sends a request 932 for a printer specification to the selected communication device. The selected communication device responds by returning the printer specification 934 to the telephone. Thereafter the telephone sends a request 936, comprising the printer specification and the document address, to the information service provider regarding printing the document at the specified printer. The request is passed 938 to the print service device of the information service provider for conversion of the document to a printable format and for sending the converted document to the selected printer. When the document is converted and if no errors occur, the print service device sends the print file 940 to the communication device, for example via e-mail. When the print file is sent, the information service provider gets a message 942 that the conversion was successful. If the conversion failed, the information provider gets a message 942 that the conversion failed. The message is passed along 944 to the telephone that presents it to the user.

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CLAIMS

1. A method in a system for selection and
5 presentation of information, comprising the steps of:
receiving a presentation unit specification at a
handheld device via a short-range wireless connection
from a communication device for a presentation unit,
sending a document address and said presentation
10 unit specification from the handheld device via a network
to a device that handles presentation requests,
receiving said document address and presentation
unit specification at the device that handles
presentation requests,
15 retrieving, at the device that handles presentation
requests, the document corresponding to said document
address,
converting, at the device that handles presentation
requests, the retrieved document to a format suitable for
20 the presentation unit,
sending the converted document from the device that
handles presentation requests via a network to the
communication device for a presentation unit, and
receiving said converted document at the
25 communication device for a presentation unit.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said
communication device for a presentation unit passes said
converted document to a presentation unit connected to
said communication device for a presentation unit.
- 30 3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said
presentation unit specification at least comprises a
presentation address, to which the presentation document
can be sent for presentation, and data indicating a
format suitable for presentation at the presentation
35 unit.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the step
of converting comprises the steps of:

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reading the presentation unit specification, and
determining the format in which the document is
saved,

5 selecting a conversion method in accordance with the
contents of the presentation unit specification and the
format in which the document is saved,

converting the document by means of the selected
conversion method.

10 5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the
presentation address is an e-mail address and wherein the
converted document is sent to the presentation unit via
an e-mail server.

6. A system for selection and presentation of
information, comprising:

15 a handheld device, enabled to present information
retrieved from an information provider on a screen in the
handheld device, including:

an I/O-interface for short-range wireless
communication with a communication device for a
20 presentation unit,

means for receiving a presentation unit
specification via said I/O-interface for short-range
communication,

25 means for sending a document address to a
device that handles presentation requests, and

means for sending a received presentation unit
specification to a device that handles presentation
requests,

30 a device that handles presentation requests,
including:

means for receiving a document address,
referring to a document that is to be presented,
from a handheld device,

35 means for receiving a presentation unit
specification from a handheld device,

means for retrieving the document corresponding
to the document address,

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means for converting the retrieved document to a format that is suitable for the presentation unit according to the presentation unit specification, and

5 means for sending the converted document to the presentation address,

a communication device for a presentation unit, including:

10 an I/O-interface for short-range wireless communication with a handheld device,

means for sending a presentation unit specification via said I/O-interface for short-range wireless communication, and

15 means for receiving information to be presented by a presentation unit.

7. A system according to claim 6, wherein said presentation unit specification at least comprises a presentation address, to which the presentation document can be sent for presentation, and data indicating a
20 format suitable for presentation at the presentation unit.

8. A system according to claim 6, wherein said means for converting comprises:

25 a plurality of conversion means, and means for selecting one conversion means, of the plurality of conversion means, in accordance with the presentation unit specification.

9. A system according to claim 6, wherein said means for converting further comprises:

30 means for determining the format of the document, and

means for interpretation of the format of the document.

35 10. A system according to claim 6, wherein said communication device for a presentation unit is provided with an I/O interface for communication over a network.

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11. A system according to claim 10, further comprising an e-mail server and wherein the presentation address is an e-mail address.

12. A method for a device that handles presentation requests, comprising the steps of:

receiving a document address referring to a document that is to be presented,

receiving a presentation unit specification,

retrieving the document corresponding to the

document address,

converting the retrieved document to a format that is suitable for the presentation unit, and

sending the converted document.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said presentation unit specification at least comprises a presentation address, to which the presentation document can be sent for presentation, and data indicating a format suitable for presentation at the presentation unit.

14. A method according to claim 12, wherein the document address and the presentation unit specification is received via a network.

15. A method according to claim 12, wherein the step of converting comprises the steps of

reading the presentation unit specification,

determining the format in which the document is saved,

selecting a conversion method in accordance with the contents of the presentation unit specification and the format in which the document is saved, and

converting the document by means of the selected conversion method.

16. A method according to claim 12, wherein the retrieved document is converted to a format suitable for printing by means of a printer.

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17. A method according to claim 12, wherein the converted document is sent over a network to be presented by means of a presentation unit.

5 18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the converted document is sent by e-mail, addressed to the presentation unit.

19. A method according to claim 17, wherein the converted document is sent to a presentation unit.

10 20. A device that handles presentation requests, comprising:
means for receiving a document address referring to a document that is to be presented,
means for receiving a presentation unit specification,

15 means for retrieving the document corresponding to the document address,

means for converting the retrieved document to a format that is suitable for the presentation unit according to the presentation unit specification, and

20 means for sending the converted document to the presentation unit.

21. A device according to claim 20, wherein said presentation unit specification at least comprises a presentation address, to which the presentation document
25 can be sent for presentation, and data indicating a format suitable for presentation at the presentation unit.

30 22. A device according to claim 20, wherein said means for receiving a document address and said means for receiving a presentation unit specification are arranged for receiving the address and the specification over a network.

23. A device according to claim 20, wherein said means for converting comprises:

35 a plurality of conversion means, and

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means for selecting one conversion means, of the plurality of conversion means, in accordance with the presentation unit specification.

24. A device according to claim 22, wherein said means for converting further comprises:

means for determining the format of the document, and

means for interpretation of the format of the document.

25. A device according to claim 20, wherein said means for receiving the document address and said means for receiving a presentation unit specification are arranged to receive the data via a network, and

said means for sending the converted document is arranged to send the data via a network.

26. A computer program product directly loadable into the memory of a digital computer, comprising software code portions for performing the steps of claim 12 when said product is run on a computer.

27. A method for a communication device for a presentation unit, said method comprising the steps of: receiving a request of a presentation unit specification,

sending, after receiving the request, the requested specification, and

receiving, after sending the requested specification, a document for presentation by the presentation unit.

28. A method according to claim 27, wherein the received request is received over a short-range wireless connection, and wherein the requested specification is sent via a short-range wireless connection.

29. A method according to claim 27, wherein the received document is received via a network.

30. A method according to claim 27, further comprising the step of making the presentation unit present the received document.

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31. A method according to claim 30, wherein the step of making the presentation unit present the received document comprises passing the document to a printout process in a printer.

5 32. A method according to claim 27, comprising the step of checking a mailbox for presentation documents at predetermined time intervals.

33. A communication device for a presentation unit, comprising:

10 an I/O-interface for short-range wireless communication,

means for receiving a request regarding a presentation unit specification via said I/O-interface for short-range wireless communication,

15 means for sending the presentation unit specification,

means for receiving information to be presented by a presentation unit, and

20 means for making the presentation unit present the received information.

34. A device according to claim 33, further comprising an I/O interface for a network connection.

35. A device according to claim 33, wherein the presentation unit is a printer.

25 36. A method for a handheld device, enabled to present information retrieved from an information provider on a display in the handheld device, for presenting information on a presentation unit separate from the handheld unit, said method comprising the steps of:

30 receiving a presentation unit specification via a short-range wireless connection from a communication device for the presentation unit,

35 sending an address of a selected information document to a device handling presentation requests, and sending the presentation unit specification to the device handling presentation requests.

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37. A method according to claim 36, further comprising the step of requesting a presentation unit specification via the short-range wireless connection as a response to a selection of a presentation unit.

5 38. A method according to claim 36, further comprising the step of broadcasting an identity request via the short-range wireless connection for identification of presentation units nearby.

10 39. A handheld device, enabled to present information retrieved from an information provider on a display in the handheld device, for presenting information on a presentation unit separate from the handheld unit, the handheld device comprising:

15 an I/O-interface for short-range communication, means for receiving a presentation unit specification via said I/O-interface for short range communication,

20 means for selecting the information accessible from the information provider to be presented on the presentation unit,

means for sending a request for presenting the information on the presentation unit, and

means for sending the presentation unit specification.

25 40. A handheld device according to claim 39, further comprising means for broadcasting a identity request via said I/O interface for short-range communication.

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ABSTRACT

A presentation of a selected document, stored at a node of a network, is accomplished by means of a system essentially comprising a handheld device, a communication device for a presentation unit and a device that handles presentation requests. By operating the handheld device, a user is able to get a presentation unit specification from said communication device. This specification is then sent, together with an address to a selected document, to a device handling presentation requests. In this device the selected document is then converted to a format suitable for the presentation unit of said communication device, where the converted document is presented. The system could be using WAP-technology for sending information from the handheld device to the device that handles presentation requests and for accessing information on the Internet. Further the system could, for example, be using Bluetooth or IrDA for the communication between the handheld device and said communication device. The system also makes it possible to achieve mobile printing and portable access to documents that cannot be presented on a small display.

Elected for publication: Fig. 1

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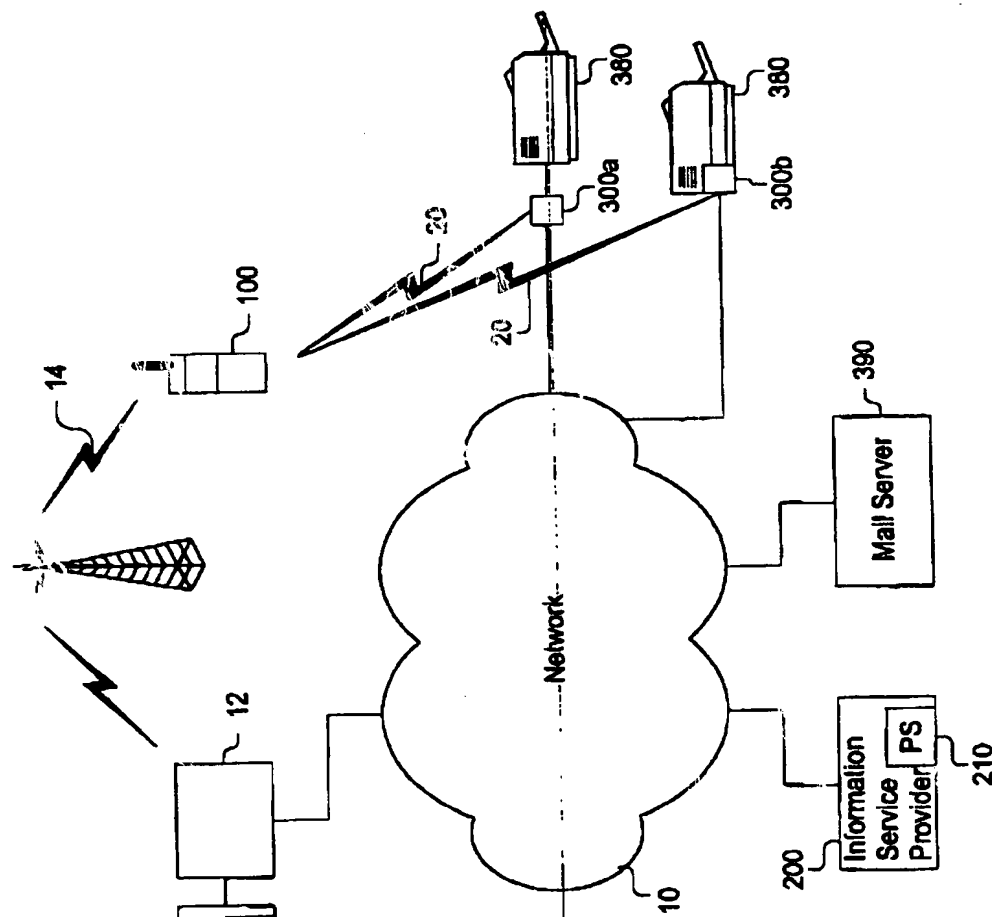


FIG 1

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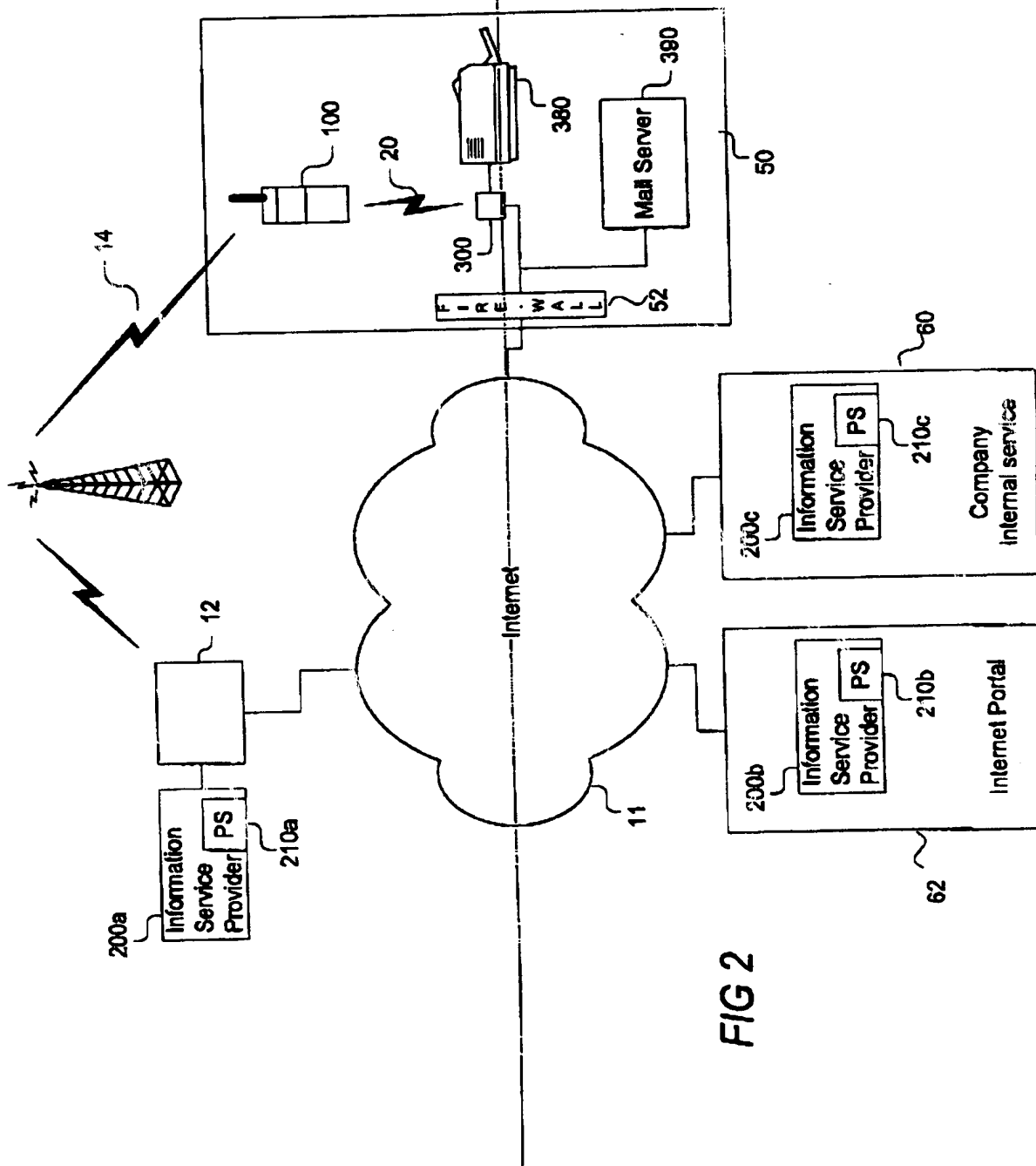


FIG 2

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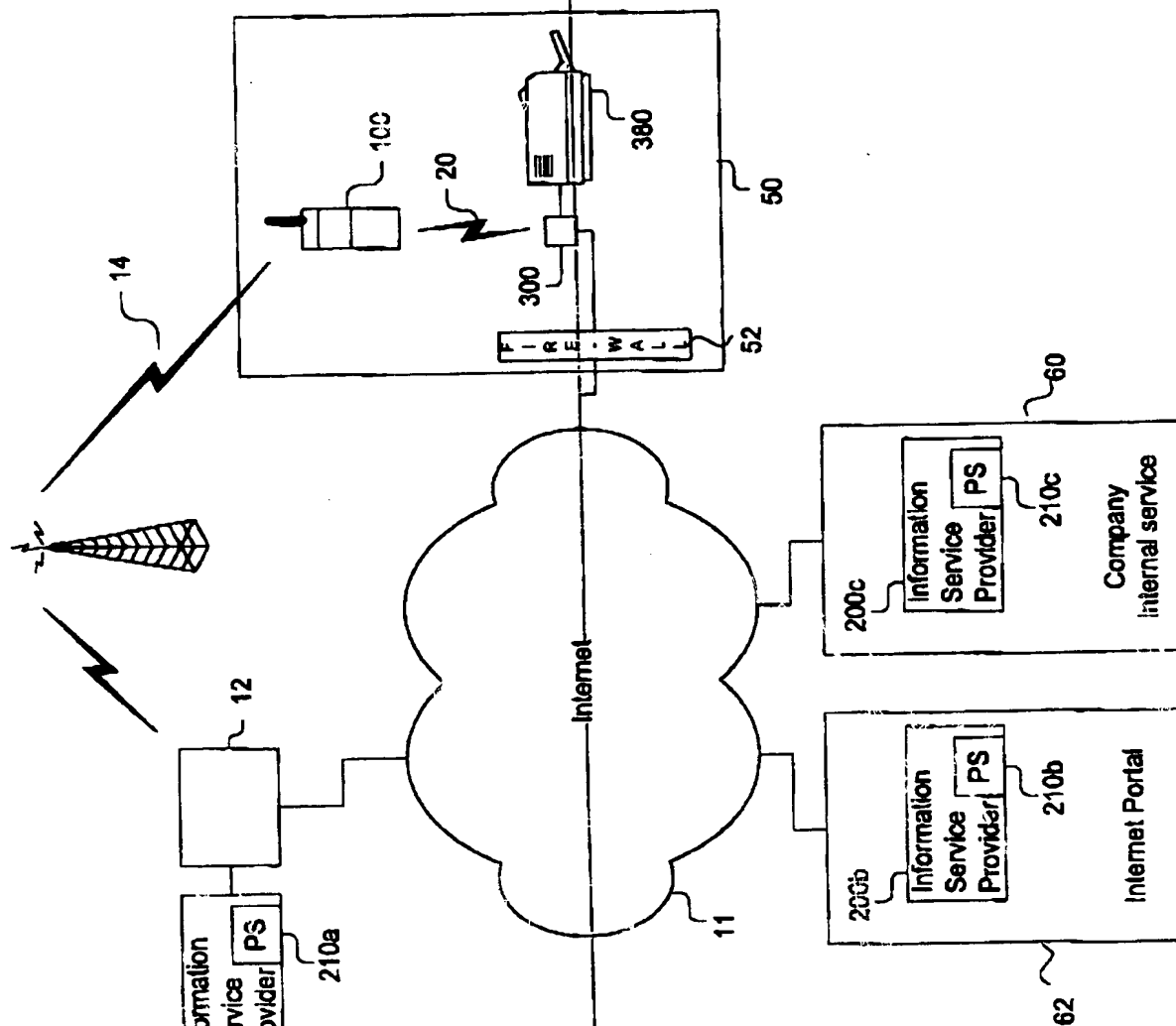


FIG 3

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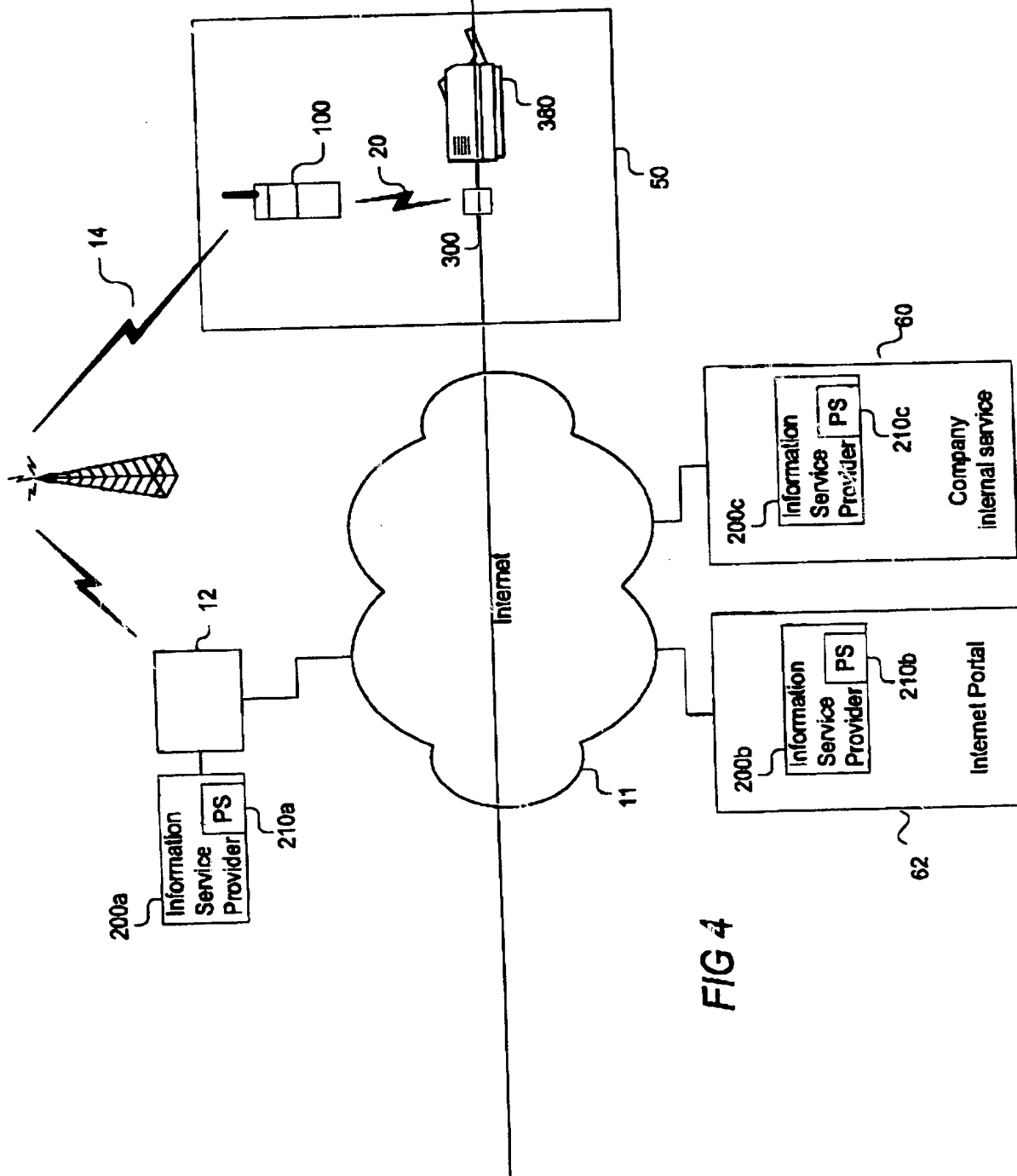


FIG 4

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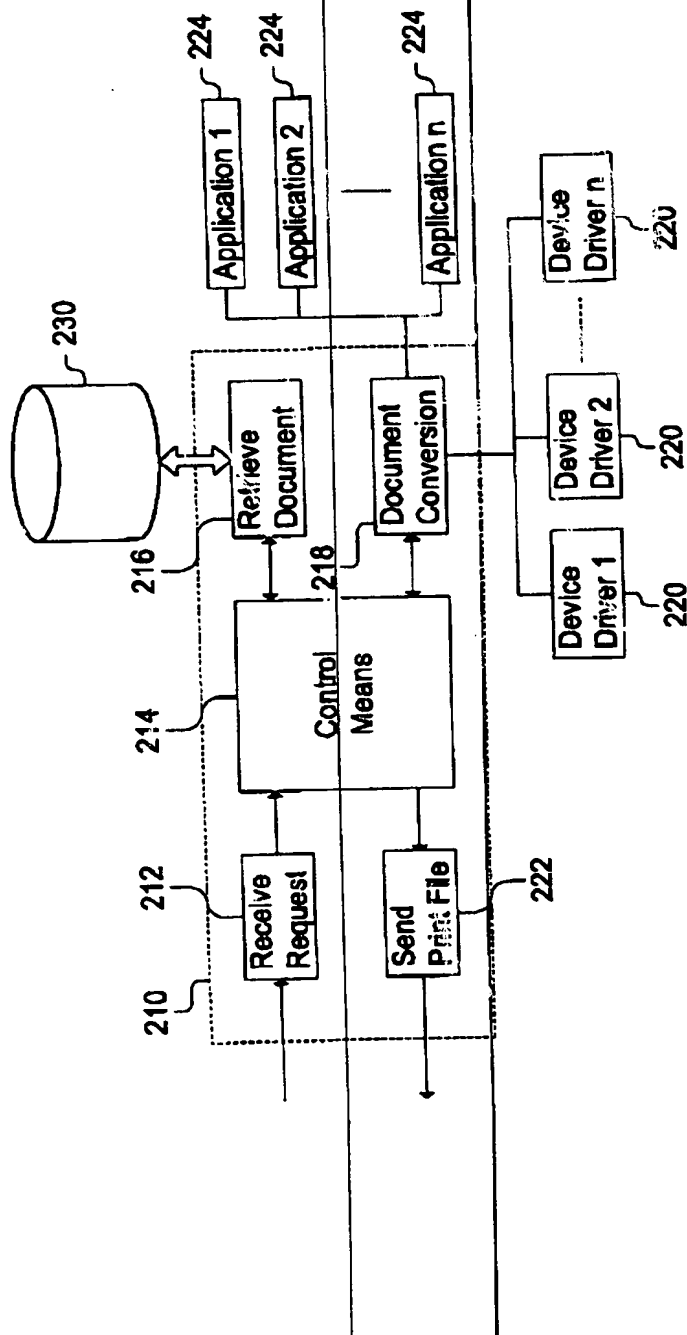


FIG 5

13-DEC. '99 (MAN) 16:10

AWAPATENT AD

46 42 160942

TEL: 46 42 160942

S. 040

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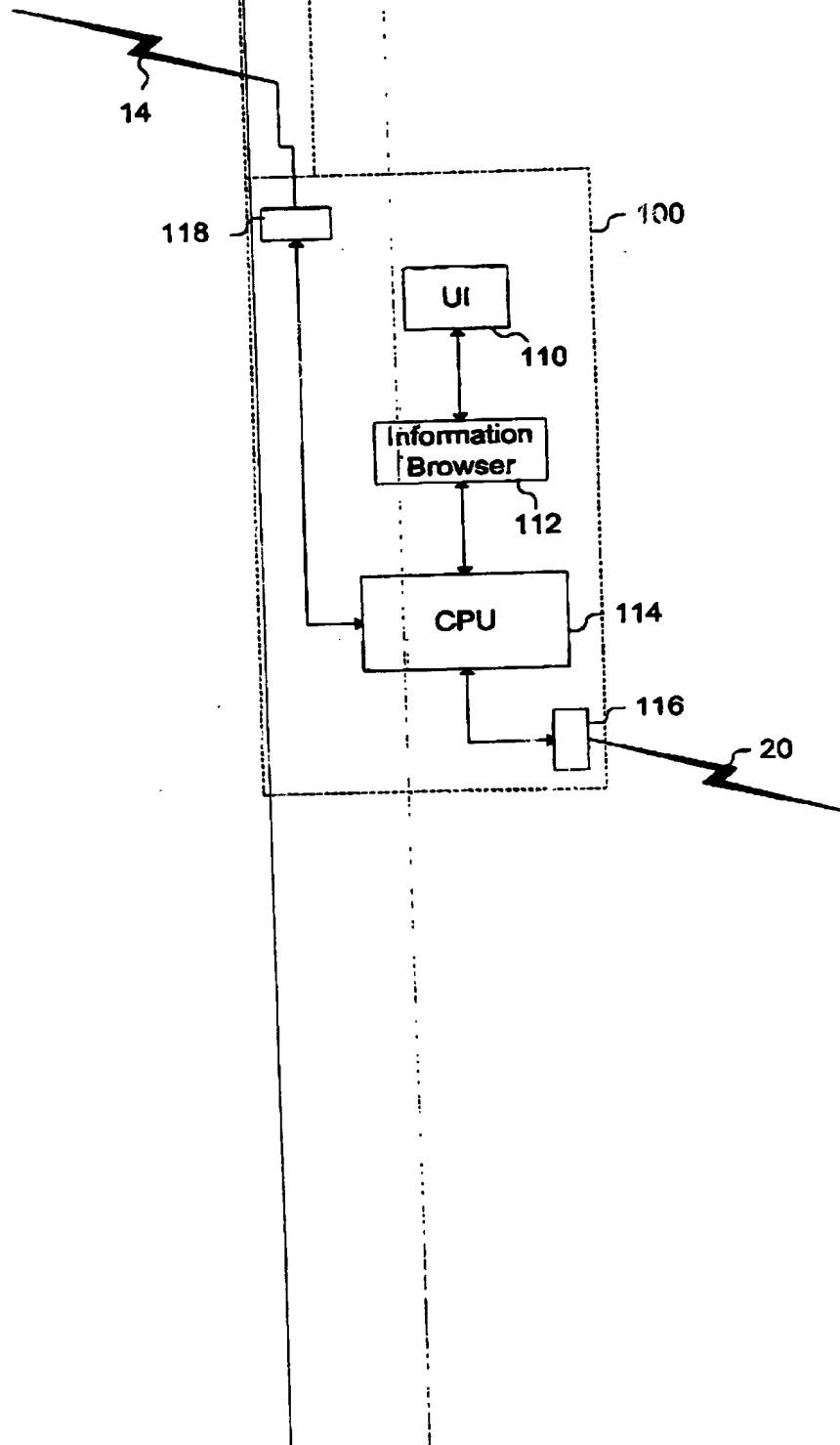


FIG 6

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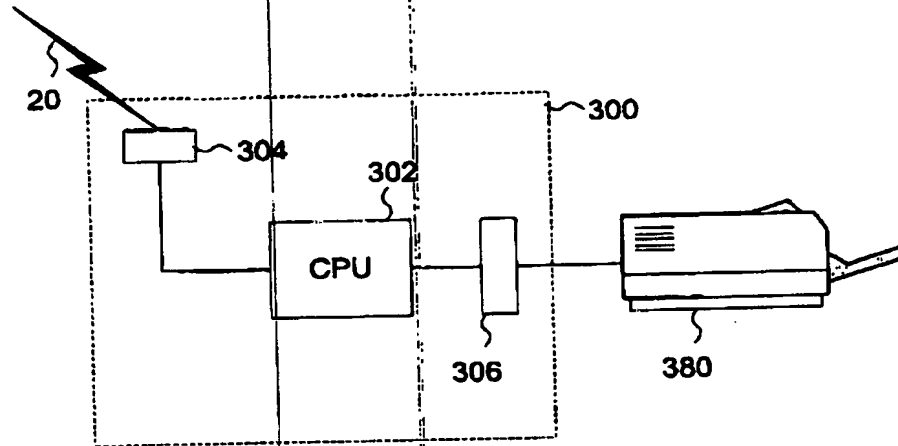


FIG 7a

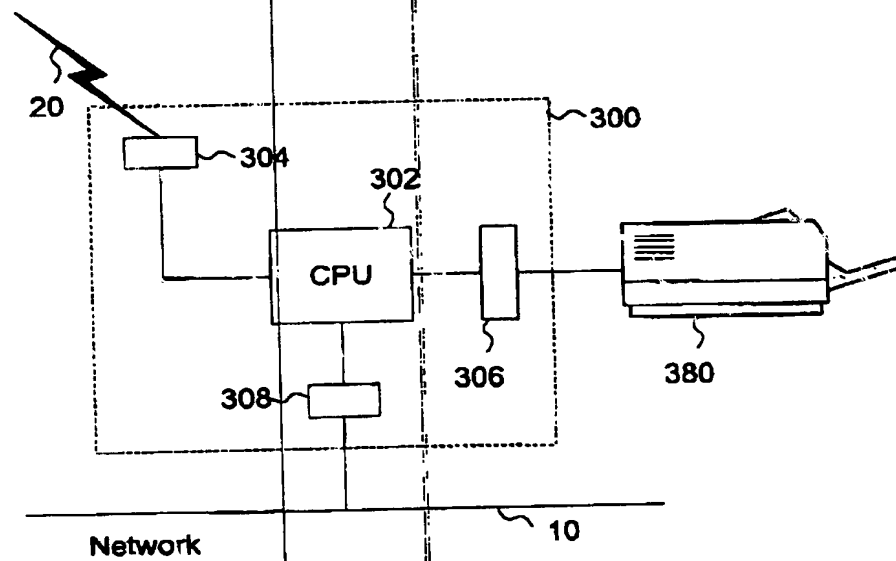
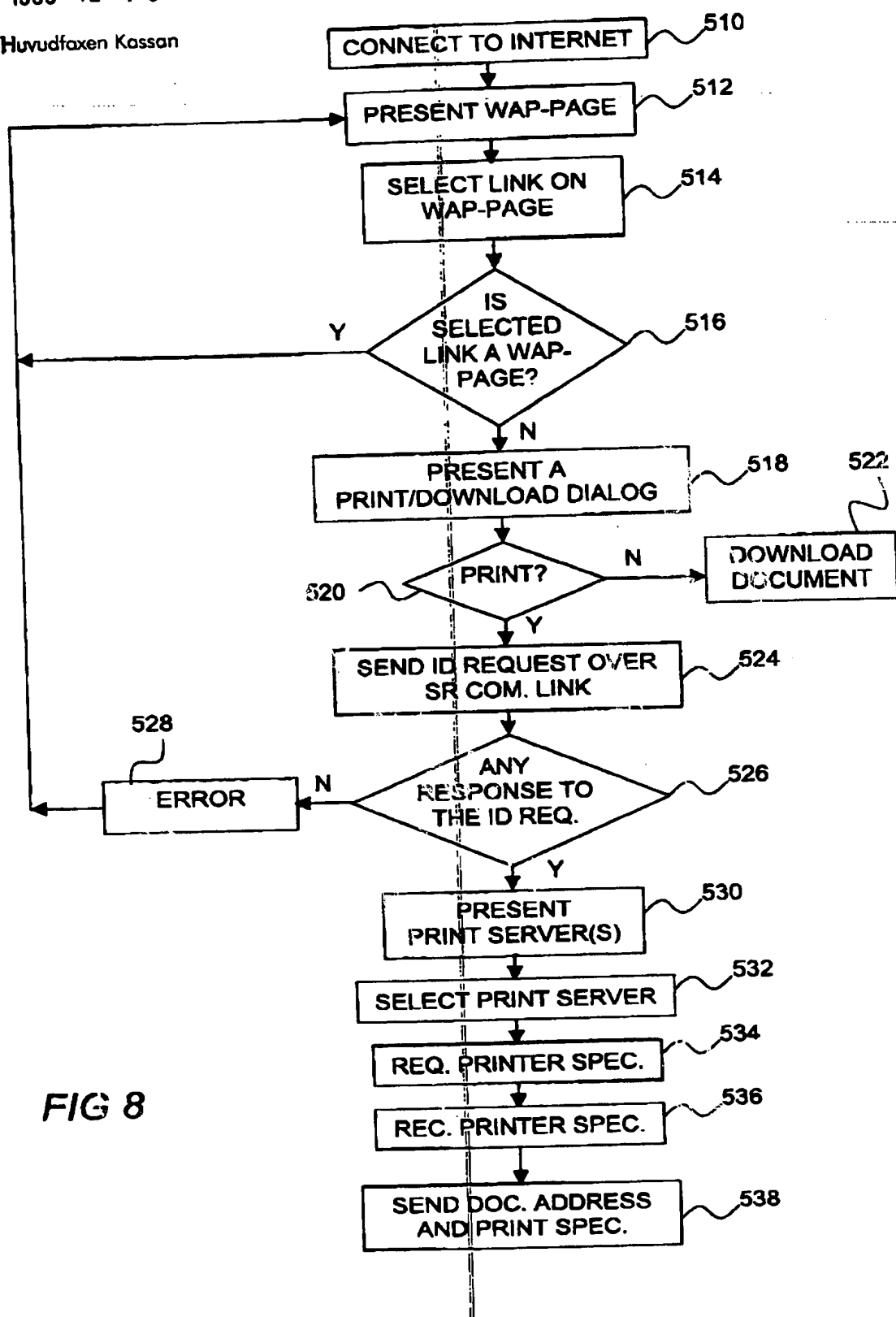


FIG 7b

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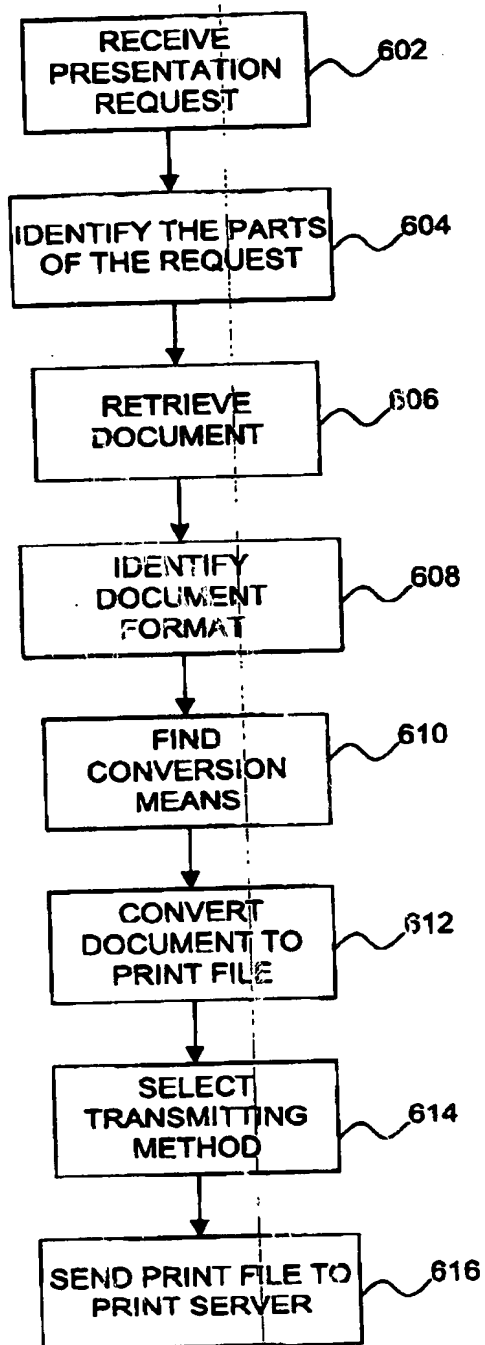


FIG 9

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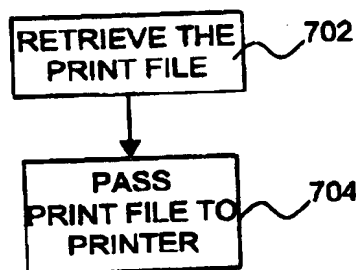


FIG 10a

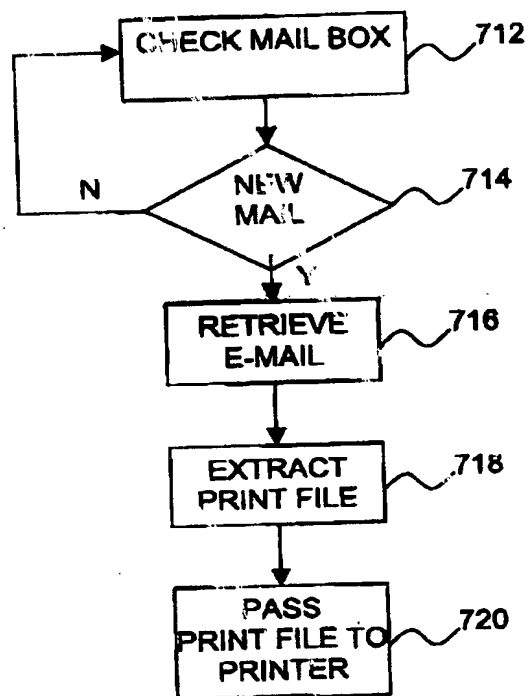


FIG 10b

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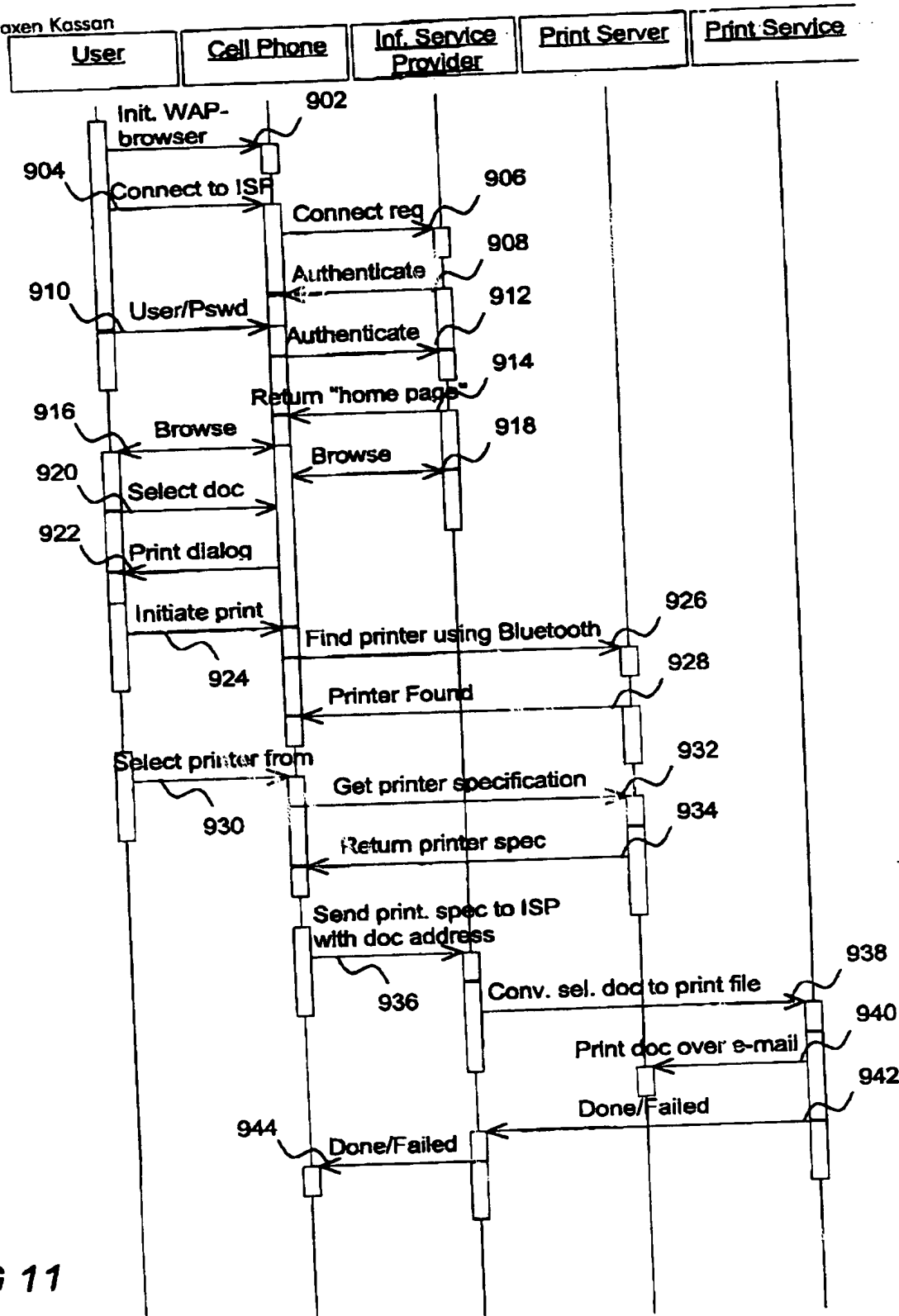


FIG 11